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With the Colors

*Dec. 4,
1942*

Dale E. Robinson, specialist first class, United States Navy, Navy Pier, Chicago writes: "Since many boys in the service are contributing letters to our good old home town paper, the Newton Press, I thought I would like to do my part for the enjoyment of relatives and friends back home by contributing my two cents worth for their benefit of reading.

"I enlisted in the United States Navy October 10, and reported for duty October 23. I like the Navy and the work I do here. I am a first class petty officer and have a specialist's rating in aircraft engines, and am teaching in the Air Corps school from 8:15 a. m. until 5:15 p. m. I teach aircraft engine ignition.

"Hundreds of boys pass through the various constructive phases of the entire school course each week. They are especially trained in aircraft mechanics to be prepared to follow up the good old U. S. A. slogan "Keep 'em flying." The boys enjoy this school because they are learning a trade of which many are planning on making a career in civilian life when we have done this great job ahead of us for Uncle Sam.

"Many people have the idea that the Navy, Army and other branches of service are made up of the "toughs" of the nation. From my viewpoint this is untrue. I find by conversing with the boys, the cream of our nation's sons are today wearing a uniform of some branch of service for the good old U. S. A.

"To the friends and relatives at home and all over our entire nation, I would like to say that it is through their efforts and hard work of production, and manufacture of all types of products that keeps the boys in service fit and ready to do justice and revenge to the Japs for their raid on Pearl Harbor, last December 7.

"Many people wonder just what we boys and men in the service have to eat and how we sleep. We have the very best of food and clothes, and all we need. We have a good bed to sleep in consisting of a hammock (when on board ship), a bunk in the barracks, a mattress, two mattress covers, a feather pillow and two pillow cases and two all wool blankets unexcelled anywhere.

"In case anyone reading this little note is hungry maybe our Thanksgiving dinner menu might sharpen up your appetite somewhat. Here it is: Tomato juice, fresh tomatoes, turkey and dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, fruit cake, ripple ice cream, mixed nuts, coffee (with sugar or without), California grapes, oranges and one package of cigarettes per man.

"Each man was entitled to a second helping of the above menu, except cigarettes, if he wanted it.

"Now friends and readers of the Press if your Thanksgiving dinner at home excelled ours in the Navy I would like to have a personal letter from you, giving your menu. Now what ye say? Would be glad to hear from all my friends both old and new.

"To the editor of the Newton Press: May I express my appreciation with many thanks for allowing me a space in his columns of our home town paper."

His address is Dale E. Robinson, Company Z-271, Section 3, Educational Officers, U. S. N. T. S., Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois.

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Florent J. Schuch of Newton writes: "I am stationed at the Naval pre-flight school in Athens, Georgia, and would like for you to start sending my Press to the address below. I found the Press to be one of my best "buddies" all through civil pilot training. I know it will be here. A fellow feels like he's right at home when he has the Press regular.

"This school is located at the southeast corner of the campus of the University of Georgia. Some of the barracks were formerly dormitories of the university, although we never see any college students around now. I think they all go to school farther uptown. All the buildings on the grounds are named after famous naval vessels and personnel.

"There's a lot of physical education training in this program, so we get some pretty tough workouts. But I think we'll really appreciate it all when we graduate as they claim to make a man out of you here or kill you and they've never killed anyone yet.

"The country around here is very beautiful. The soil is almost a brick red, which blends beautifully with the trees and shrubs (they are still green). The terrain is pretty hilly,

which we soon learned on hikes I think I'll like it fine here. We're all in the same boat, so it is awfully easy to make friends. Another good point is that it shouldn't get so very cold here, and I do like warm weather."

His address is United States Naval Pre-flight School, Battalion 13, Company A, Langley Barracks, Room 219, Athens, Georgia.

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David Compton of Newton is in receipt of a letter from his son, W. D. Compton, machinist's mate second class, United States Navy, who is a student at the York Naval Training school, York Ice Machine Corporation, York, Pennsylvania, who until recently has been on North Atlantic patrol duty. He writes:

"I have been moving so much and so fast that I couldn't find time to write to anyone. This is my second day in school, and dad, I'm really lucky to be here. They told us yesterday that if we learn all they teach us that it would cost us close to a thousand dollars, if we were paying for it ourselves.

"It is hard for me and I have little time for anything but study; I'm studying eight hours a day and again at night. I have to do this because of all the high school work I've missed. But as you see, dad, I haven't said 'can't' nor will I. I am the first and only man as yet who has come to this school from an old ship, and so far as I know I am the only man the Arkansas has ever sent to refrigeration school.

"I am not smart, dad, but instead am dumb, yet there is one thing I do know: That is I will and am going to learn a trade which they say will grant me a job with very good pay. I will be here until Christmas, then will return to the Arkansas."